Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the title on pages 1 and 17 as follows:

DAMAGE TOLERANT SHAFT ~~AND ASSOCIATED FABRICATION METHOD~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7 at line 19 as follows:

The annular body 16, 26 and ribs 14, 24 may be made of a composite material, such as graphite fibers impregnated with epoxy resin. As explained below, the fibers extend at various angles about the annular body 16, 26 and along the ribs 14, 24. Depending on the geometry of the shaft, the magnitude of the loading and the design requirements, the fibers will be oriented at various angles with respect to the axis of the shaft. The angles of the fibers may range from 90 degrees, which would extend circumferentially about a lobe, to 0 degrees, which would extend lengthwise through the lobe. Although composite materials are high strength, the annular body 16, 26 and/or the plurality of ribs 14, 24 may include additional reinforcing fibers oriented in a direction perpendicular to the axis about which said annular body is symmetrical. The fibers may be any type known to those skilled in the art, such as graphite, fiberglass, silicon carbide, aluminum oxide, astroquartz, and organic fibers such as Kevlar, Vectran, and PBO. The resin may be organic or inorganic, such as thermoset, thermoplastic, metallic and ceramic. In addition, the shaft may be made of metallic materials, such as aluminum titanium and steel. As also explained below, interstices ~~or voids~~ may be defined between the annular body 16, 26 and the ribs 14, 24 and at the connection point of the ribs 18, 28. Any type of filler material, such as chopped carbon filler mixed with resin, unidirectional or fabric prepreg, organic or inorganic foam, adhesive, honeycomb core, syntactic resin, wood, aerogel or any other compatible material, may be used to fill interstices between the annular body 16, 26 and ribs 14, 24. The filler material may also fill the interstices between the ribs 14, 24 at the point of connection 18, 28.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, beginning at line 26 as follows:

The fibers of the lobes 38 and outer layer 40 create a damage tolerant shaft 30 with considerable strength in the direction that the fibers 38, 40 are wound. To provide additional strength to the damage tolerant shaft 30, additional reinforcing fibers 35 oriented in a direction that is perpendicular to the axis about which the annular body is symmetrical may extend through the rib portion of the lobes 38. Since the composite material is typically a preform, all of the fibers of the lobes 32 are preferably impregnated and cured simultaneously.